

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-33 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated L-amino acid producing bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the L-amino acid production ~~by said bacterium should be~~ is enhanced by ~~enhancing increasing the activity activities of a protein as defined in the following (A) or (B), and (C) or (D) in a cell of said bacterium~~ selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a protein which comprises~~comprising~~ the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3-4 in Sequence listing; and

(B) a protein which comprises~~comprising~~ an amino acid sequence including deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of ~~one or several~~1 to 12 amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3-4 in Sequence listing, and which has an ~~activity of making bacterium having~~ and wherein said protein imparts enhanced resistance to L-amino acids and/or its analogs to the bacterium;

and, in addition, increasing the activity of a protein selected from the group consisting of:

(C) a protein which comprises~~comprising~~ the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5-6 in Sequence listing; and

(D) a protein which comprises~~comprising~~ an amino acid sequence including deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of ~~one or several~~1 to 11 amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5-6 in Sequence listing, and which has an ~~activity of making bacterium having~~ wherein said protein imparts enhanced resistance to L-amino acids and/or its analogs to the bacterium.

2. (Currently Amended) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein said ~~activities activity of proteins as defined as (A) or (B) and (C) or (D) are enhanced~~ is increased by ~~transformation of~~ transforming said bacterium with a DNA coding for said protein as defined in (A) or (B), and (C) or (D), or by alteration altering of a DNA sequence which

~~regulates expression regulation sequence of said DNA on the chromosome of the bacterium.~~

3. (Original) The bacterium according to claim 2, wherein the transformation is performed with a multicopy vector.

4-30. (Withdrawn)

31. (New) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the number of deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of amino acids in the amino acid sequences in SEQ ID NOS: 4 and 6 is 1-5.

32. (New) The bacterium according to claim 31, wherein the proteins (A) and (C) are encoded by the following polynucleotides, respectively:

- (a) a polynucleotide which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,
- (c) a polynucleotide which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

33. (New) The bacterium according to claim 32, wherein the proteins (B) and (D) are encoded by the following polynucleotide, respectively:

(b) a polynucleotide which hybridizes with the sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 under conditions comprising washing in 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60°C, and

(d) a polynucleotide which hybridizes with the sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 under conditions comprising washing in 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60°C.